



## NEWS RELEASE:

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### **What does a new Government mean for young people?** Young Birmingham campaigner invited to Westminster to find out

**Envision student Alex Pike from Bishop Vesey's Grammar School met Members of Parliament at the Houses of Commons last week to ask them what a new government could do for young people.**

Alex travelled to London on Friday to join Envision Chief Executive Andrew Dick and fellow Envision student Mita Desai from Seven Kings School in London to attend the event organised by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS).

The event was hosted by the Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs, **Natascha Engel MP** and featured speeches from **Nick Hurd MP**, Minister for Civil Society and **Susanne Rauprich** Chief Executive of NCVYS. The event also attracted MP's from across the political spectrum, including Birmingham MP **James Morris** (Halesowen and Rowley Regis).

As well as chatting with MP's the Envision delegation met with young representatives from over 50 different youth organisations. The focus of the event was to investigate ways government and charities could improve the lives of the 15 million young people in England who are under the age of 24.

**Talking about the event Alex said,** "I'm really glad I went to the event. I've never done anything like this before and it was a little overwhelming at first but it was a great opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of organisations and get people talking to see how we could work together in the future."

Alex, 17, is part of a team of five students at his school who are working to raise awareness and funds for local homelessness charity St Basils, supported by youth organisation Envision.

**Speaking about his experience with Envision Alex said,** "Envision is an organisation that allows young people to work with an issue they are passionate about – it opens doors and makes it easier for them to get involved."

**Andrew Dick, Envision's Chief Executive, said,** "Opportunities like today, with access to so many decision-makers, are a great chance for the young people on our programme to have their voices heard and get experiences you just can't get at school. Alex was a natural at networking too."

**-Ends-**

**Notes to editors:**

**For more information, photographs or to arrange an interview please contact :**

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**Envision**

**Notes to Editors:**

- Envision provides young people with the opportunity to make a difference. The charity was established in 2000 by four young people who wanted to challenge the stereotype that young people are apathetic and disengaged.
- Envision works with over 3000 young people a year in London, Birmingham and Leeds, helping them design their own local community projects tackling issues ranging from street crime to climate change. The experience builds confidence, aspirations and skills – inspiring the next generation of young community leaders.
- Envision currently works from three regional bases in Greater London, Birmingham and Leeds. Envision Bristol will be operational as of Summer 2010 with a fifth office due to open in 2011.
- Envision has been recognised as a GoldStar Exemplar project for its best practice in recruiting and supporting volunteers.
- In 2009 Envision won funds to deliver The Co-Operative Foundation's "Truth About Youth" campaign, combating negative perceptions of young people and showcasing positive examples.